

**Claim Amendments:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface coating solution comprising:  
~~a surface coating base~~ a water-based solution including a polymer in an emulsion; and  
activated boehmite particles provided in the surface coating base water-based solution in  
an amount of 0.1 wt% to 20.0 wt%, the activated boehmite particles comprising  
mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1;  
wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least 6 mils; and  
wherein the surface coating solution is essentially free of associative thickener.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The surface coating solution of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the ~~latex~~  
~~paint~~ polymer comprises an acrylic.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface  
coating solution has a sag resistance greater than 7 mils.
7. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 6, wherein the surface coating  
solution has a sag resistance between about 7 and 12 mils.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 10% by weight of the surface coating solution.

11. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 10, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 2% by weight of the surface coating solution.

12. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution has a set-to-touch dry time less than 30 minutes.

13. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers.

14. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 13, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of between 100 and 1000 nanometers.

15. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein said aspect ratio is not less than 6:1.

16. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a secondary aspect ratio of not greater than 3:1.

17. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

18. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 17, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least  $75 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

19. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 18, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measure by the BET technique between about 100 and about  $350 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

20. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the surface coating solution recovers 80% of low shear viscosity in less than 15 seconds.

21. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 1, wherein the pH of the solution is greater than 7.0.

22. (Currently Amended) A surface coating solution comprising a latex emulsion and activated boehmite particles in an amount between 0.1 wt% and 20.0 wt%, the activated boehmite particles comprising mainly anisotropically shaped particles having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1 and a longest dimension of at least 50 nanometers, wherein the surface coating solution has flow and leveling of at least 6 mils, and wherein the surface coating solution is essentially free of an associative thickener.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution has a sag resistance of at least 7 mils.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles constitute between about 0.5% and 2% by weight of the surface coating solution.

27. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution has a set-to-touch dry time less than 30 minutes.

28. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a longest dimension of between 100 and 1000 nanometers.

29. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have at least a 6:1 aspect ratio.

30. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a secondary aspect ratio of no more than 3:1.

31. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

32. (Original) The surface coating solution of claim 31, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measured by the BET technique of at least  $75 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

33. (Currently Amended) The surface coating solution of claim 32, wherein the boehmite particles have a surface area as measure by the BET technique between ~~about~~ 100 and ~~about~~ 350  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

34. (Previously Presented) The surface coating solution of claim 22, wherein the surface coating solution recovers 80% of low shear viscosity in less than 15 seconds.

Claims 35-54 (Canceled)